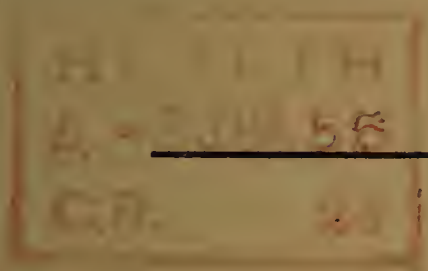


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BOROUGH OF MARLBOROUGH



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1955



BOROUGH OF MARLBOROUGH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the annual report on the public health of the Borough for the year 1955.

The population for the year as estimated by the Registrar General was 5430 as compared with 5390 in the previous year, and the excess (14) of births over deaths gives the natural increase rate of the population as 2.6 per 1000 as compared with 2.0 per 1000 population in 1954.

The births numbered 69, of which 37 were male and 32 female, and this figure represents a rate per 1000 population of 16.4 corrected for area comparability. The birth rate in 1954 was 15.6 per 1000 population. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1955 was 15 per 1000 population.

The death rate of the Borough based on 55 deaths (26 male and 29 female) during 1955, was 10.1 per 1000 population, corrected for comparability. The death rate in 1954 was 10.0 per 1000 population. The average number of deaths during the last ten years including 1955 was 51.2. The death rate for England and Wales in 1955 was 11.7 per 1000 total population.

There were 44 deaths, or 80 per cent of the total (55) at 65 years of age and over, and 29 or 52 per cent of these were over 75 years of age. There was one infant death due to pneumonia. The infant death rate is thus 14.5 per 1000 live births in the Borough during 1955. The Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales for the same period is 24.9 per 1000 live births. The average number of infant deaths under one year during the ten year period 1946-1955 was 3 and this number based on the mean number of 70.6 live births for the same period, would give an infant death rate of 42.4 per 1000 live births for the Borough.

Among the deaths from special causes during 1955 there were 9 from coronary heart disease, and 15 from other heart and circulatory diseases; while cerebral haemorrhage accounted for 4 deaths, and cancer 11. There were no deaths from road accidents in the Borough during 1955 nor from tuberculosis, or other infective diseases. There were 4 deaths from pneumonia.

Notifiable diseases during 1955 in the Borough numbered one hundred and fifty seven, including two notifications for non-pulmonary tuberculosis. Measles notifications number 110 and whooping cough 42. The greatest incidence was in March-June and in the age group 2-9 years.

Incidence rates per 1000 population for *notifiable* diseases during 1955 in the Borough were: measles 20.3, whooping cough 7.8, meningococcal septicaemia 0.2, and non-respiratory tuberculosis 0.4.

No notifications were received in respect of poliomyelitis, food poisoning, or respiratory tuberculosis during the year in the Borough.

Diphtheria immunization figures for 1955 give 41 primary inoculations under 15 years of age as having been completed during the year, 17 of which were under one year and 24 between one and fourteen years of age. The number of vaccinations under one year of age during 1955 was 45. The number of live births in the Borough was 69.

Other relevant data are to be found in the body of the report which is followed by the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

It gives me great pleasure to record my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation I have received from the staff and my colleagues at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

RODERICK MACKAY.

Medical Officer of Health.

16th May, 1956.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	R. MACKAY, M.D., D.P.H.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	H. C. YEOMAN, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Inspector	T. J. Loveless, M.S.I.A.

The Medical Officer of Health acts also in that capacity for the other three constituent authorities of the East Wilts Combined Districts, viz. Amesbury R.D., Pewsey R.D., and Marlborough and Ramsbury R.D. and is responsible for the public health duties imposed by statute upon his office ; he holds, in addition, the appointment of assistant County Medical Officer and in this respect carries out, on behalf of the County Council, duties in connection with the welfare service for which it is mainly responsible.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector also holds the office of Borough Surveyor and together with his assistant carries out, within the Borough in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, the statutory duties, which are placed upon the authority in general in connection with the public health.

The duties of the Sanitary Inspector and the Medical Officer of Health are satisfactorily integrated.

Matters of Public Health are normally dealt with by the General Purposes Committee of the Borough Council, but there is a separate committee for housing and one for waterworks and sewerage.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	....	....	....	....	....	1496
Population mid-1955 as estimated by the Registrar						
General	....	....	....	....	....	5430
Number of inhabited houses	....	....	....	....	....	1598
Number of new houses erected in 1955 :—						
By Private Enterprise	....	....	....	....	....	11
By Local Authority	....	....	....	....	....	10
Rateable value	....	....	....	....	....	£42819
Sum represented by a Penny rate	....	....	....	....	....	£170

VITAL STATISTICS

				M.	F.	Total
Live Births	....	....	....	37	32	69
Legitimate	....	....	....	36	30	66
Illegitimate	....	....	....	1	2	3
Still Births	....	....	....	—	2	2
Legitimate	....	....	....	—	2	2
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—	—
Live Birth Rate	....	....	....	(per 1000 population)		16.4
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales	(per 1000 population)					15.0
Number of Deaths from all causes	(per 1000 population)					55
Death Rate	(per 1000 population)					10.1
Death Rate for England and Wales	(per 1000 population)					11.7

Deaths of Infants under one year :—

Total	....	....	....	....	....	....	I
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	....	....	I
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Infant Death Rate per 1000 live births							14.5
Infant Death Rate for England and Wales							24.9

NOTE :

- (1) The number of births, still-births and deaths are those registered during 1955 after adjustment has been made for inward and outward transfers.
- (2) The infant mortality rate noted above is based on only one infant death : the mean rate for the last ten years is about 42 per 1000 live births.

BIRTH RATE, INFANT DEATH RATE, TOTAL DEATH RATE,

1955

	<i>Marlborough Borough</i>	<i>Administrative County</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Birth Rate*	16.4	15.7	15.0
Death Rate*	10.1	10.4	11.7
Death Rate of Infants (under one year) (per 1000 live births)	14.5	18.4	24.9

*Per 1000 population.

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH, 1946-55

Year	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Population	4656	4630	5224	5397	5360	5421	5281	5327	5390	5430
Live Births	75 16.1	90 19.4	81 15.5	61 11.3	77 14.4	56 10.3	61 11.6	71 13.3	65 12.1	69 12.7
Still Births	1 13.3	0 0.0	2 24.0	0 0.0	1 12.8	0 0.0	0 0.0	3 40.5	0 0.0	2 28.2
Total Deaths	55 11.8	65 14.0	41 7.8	49 9.1	35 6.5	52 9.6	48 9.1	58 10.9	54 10.0	55 10.1
Infant Deaths.....	9 120.0	6 66.6	4 49.3	2 32.8	1 12.9	1 17.9	1 16.4	4 56.3	1 15.4	1 14.5
Tuberculosis Deaths	1 0.2	1 0.2	3 0.6	2 0.4	1 0.2	2 0.4	0 0.0	1 0.2	1 0.2	0 0.0
Cancer Deaths	7 1.5	12 2.6	3 0.6	6 1.1	7 1.3	8 1.5	8 1.5	9 1.7	8 1.5	11 2.0
Pneumonia Deaths.....	2 0.4	1 0.2	1 0.2	3 0.6	1 0.2	2 0.4	1 0.2	5 0.9	1 0.2	4 0.7

N.B. The corresponding rate is given *underlined* together with the figure on which it is based. With the exception of the infant death rate which is calculated per 1000 live births, and the still birth rate per 1000 *total* births, the rates given above are computed per 1000 of the population. The birth and death rates are not corrected in this table for area comparability.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total number of infectious diseases notified in the Borough during 1955 was 157 including two non-respiratory tuberculosis. Measles accounted for 110 of the notified diseases whose greatest incidence was at ages 2-10 years (101) and of these 79 were notified in April.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1955

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Whooping cough	8	4	1	2	9	15	3	-	-	-	-	-	42
Scarlet fever	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Measles.....	1	-	8	79	15	5	-	2	-	-	-	-	110
Meningococcal Septicaemia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pulmonary tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Totals	9	5	11	81	24	20	5	2	-	-	-	-	157

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS), 1955

Disease	Total	Age (years)											
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65
Whooping cough	42	4	3	6	1	8	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet fever	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.....	110	1	6	11	12	21	57	1	-	-	-	1	-
Meningococcal Septicaemia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Totals	155	5	9	17	13	29	79	1	1	-	-	1	-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION

These services are rendered by the County Medical Officer's department under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Immunizations are carried out at welfare clinics, and at schools under direct control of the County Medical Officer by the County medical staff, and by general practitioners who also perform all vaccinations against smallpox on a patient-doctor basis by arrangement.

Of the 69 children born in the Borough during 1955, only 17 were immunized before one year of age. The number immunized between 1 and 5 years was 12 and that between 5 and 15 years 12. The total number primarily immunized in the Borough during the year was 41.

There were in addition 100 re-inoculations. The total immunized population under 15 years of age is estimated at 947 and the majority of these were inoculated in the age groups 5 to 9 years (307) and 10 to 14 years (407).

Diphtheria immunizations carried out during the last ten years are as follows :—

<i>Age Group (Years)</i>	<i>Year</i>										<i>Total</i>
	1946	'47	'48	'49	'50	'51	'52	'53	'54	'55	
Under 5	62	53	54	36	36	65	50	58	50	29	493
5-15	10	63	13	8	22	25	18	7	15	12	193
Total	72	116	67	44	58	90	68	65	65	41	686

Vaccinations against smallpox for 1955 in the Borough give a total of 45 primary vaccinations in the first year of life. There were 69 births in 1955. The numbers vaccinated primarily over the age of one year are negligible ; 78 were re-vaccinated at ages 15 years and over.

HOUSING

It will be noted from the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector that the Council's housing figures for post-war construction now stand at 192 permanent houses and 20 temporary ones ; ten traditional houses were built by the Borough Council during 1955.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply as reported by the Chief Sanitary Inspector continues to be satisfactory both as to quantity and quality, and the present method of chlorination has come up to expectations in effectiveness and economy. A typical analysis report is enclosed with the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SEWERAGE

The schemes of improvements which has been the subject of a recent ministerial inquiry is now in the hands of the consulting engineers.

FOOD SUPERVISION

In general the standard of hygiene in connection with the sale of food was satisfactory throughout the year ; no outbreaks of food poisoning incidents were reported during the year. Periodic visits are made in respect of food premises including dairies and meat shops. Milk sampling is at present carried out on a monthly basis for the statutory tests and quarterly for biological investigation for bovine tuberculosis.

CAUSES OF DEATH

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN, 1955

		M.	F.	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	1	—	1
4	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5	Whooping cough	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8	Measles	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	—	1
11	„ „ lung-bronchus	2	—	2
12	„ „ breast	—	1	1
13	„ „ uterus	—	—	—
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	4	6
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
16	Diabetes	1	—	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	3	4
18	Coronary diseases, angina	5	4	9
19	Hypertension with heart disease	—	1	1
20	Other heart disease	5	5	10
21	Other circulatory disease	1	3	4
22	Influenza	—	—	—
23	Pneumonia	2	2	4
24	Bronchitis	—	—	—
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	—	1	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	3	4
33	Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—
34	All other accidents	1	2	3
35	Suicide	—	—	—
36	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
Total all causes		26	29	55

BOROUGH OF MARLBOROUGH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1955

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my seventh Annual Report on the work carried out by this Department. The Report is in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 17/55 dated 23rd November, 1955.

During this year a considerable amount of time was spent on Housing inspections as a result of a direction from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. In August a 5 year programme of Slum Clearance was submitted and approved.

Finally I would take this opportunity of thanking the Medical Officer of Health for his assistance and guidance, and also the other members of my Staff for their co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. C. YEOMAN,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Council Offices,
1 The Green,
Marlborough.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS

During the year 843 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors. Those listed as Surveyor's Duties relate to work in connection with the Building Byelaws. The visits are summarised as follows :—

Water Supply	56
Drainage	97
Moveable Dwellings	16
Factories	23
Refuse Disposal	10
Rodent Control	46
Petroleum	34
Housing	79
Verminous Premises	7
Infectious Diseases	2
Inspection of Meat and Other Foods	35
Dairies and Distributors	30
Inspection of Food Premises	120
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	87
Surveyor's Duties	201
	843

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Premises in the Borough.

<i>Type</i>	<i>No.</i>
Bakehouses	6
Butchers Shops	6
Cafes and Restaurants	11
Grocers Shops	16
Greengrocers Shops	4
Fishmongers Shops.....	3
Licensed Premises	19
(9 of which hold catering licences)	

Food Premises registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Sale of Ice Cream	23
Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream	Nil
Manufacture and Sale of Sausages or Pre-served Food.....	4
Fish and Chips	1
	28

Premises registered under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Dairies	3
---------------	---

The following foods were condemned during the year :—

Tinned Vegetables	39½ lb.
Tinned Fruit	66½ lb.
Tinned Meat	13 lb.
Tinned Milk	4½ lb.
Fish	18½ lb.
Meat and Offal	122 lb.
Bacon	20 lb.
	<hr/>
	284 lb.
	<hr/>

Condemned foods are voluntarily surrendered, and disposed of by the Council at their Refuse Tip.

FACTORIES

During the year 23 inspections of various Factories were made, mainly in connection with smoke nuisances, Certificates for Means of Escape in Case of Fire and Sanitary Conveniences.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection and disposal of Refuse from both Household and Trade premises has continued satisfactorily, and a weekly collection has been maintained throughout the district. In addition Cafes receive a second collection. Rodent Control at the Refuse Tip has been very satisfactory and no complaints have been received. The salvage of waste paper and other materials has continued.

HOUSING

Housing progress during 1955 was disappointing, and only 10 Traditional, two bedroomed, houses were completed. By the end of the year, a Contract for a further 18 houses had been commenced.

The total houses built since the War is now 192 Permanent, and 20 Temporary.

The extremely dilapidated Huts on the Common continue to be demolished as families are re-housed, and at the end of the year only 2 families remain.

The information called for by Article 31 of the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932, is set out below :—

- | | |
|--|----|
| (1) Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation | 37 |
| (2) Number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers | 2 |
| (3) Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders | 4 |

(4)	The number of notices served requiring the execution of works	I
(5)	The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	Nil
(6)	The number of demolition or closing orders made	4
(7)	The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsections (2) of section 19 of the Housing Act, 1930 (z)	I
(8)	The number of houses demolished	I

The above figures include the Council's 5 year programme of Slum Clearance called for by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply for the area continues to be entirely satisfactory in both quality and quantity. Regular Bacteriological and Chemical samples have been taken. Following is a copy of the latest report from the Pathologist.

Report on the Analysis of a sample of water received on 4-4-'56 from Marlborough Borough Council.

Tap "Cherry Tree," Upper Church Fields. Chlorinated.

Physical Characters.....A clear water with a trace of brownish deposit.

<i>CHEMICAL</i> :	Parts per 100,000
Reaction.....	Alkaline pH 7.3
Saline and free Ammonia.....	Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia.....	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in two hours at 27 degrees C.	0.003
Chlorides	1.6
Nitrogenas nitrates	0.5
Total Hardness	22.0
(a) Temporary	16.0
(b) Permanent	6.0
Poisonous Metals	Nil
Nitrites	Nil
Microscopical examination of the Sediment....	Trace of iron rust

BACTERIOLOGICAL

Total Colonies in 48 hours . . Nil . . Per 1 c.c. of Water growing at 37 degrees C.

Number of Coli-Aerogenes organisms . . Nil . . Per 100 c.c. of Water growing at 37 degrees C.

Number of Faecal types of B Coli . . Nil . . Per 100 c.c. of Water growing at 44 degrees C.

OPINION :

Chemical examination satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Progress has been slow on the proposed Scheme of improvements at the Sewage Works. A Ministerial Inquiry has been held, and the Consulting Engineers are proceeding with the preparation of the working drawings. In the meantime, the effluent from the Works continues to be unsatisfactory.

The remainder of the sewerage system has given rise to no complaints.

PETROLEUM

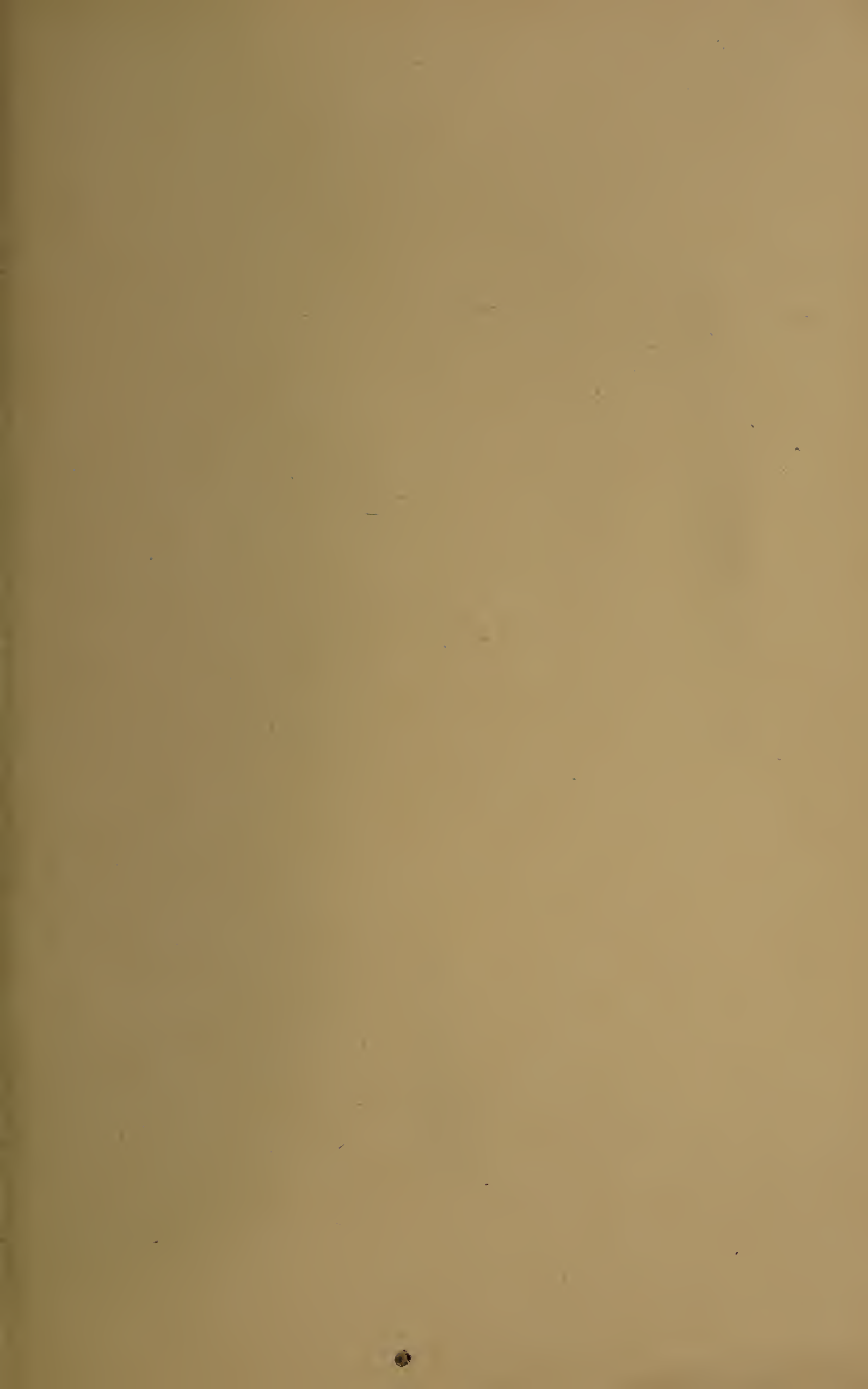
The number of licensed premises remained constant at 28. A total of 34 inspections were made during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

Rodent control work has continued very satisfactorily during the year, one of our own employees carrying out the work under direct supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. Again there has been a slight increase in the number of complaints, and during the year test baiting of the sewers provided negative results.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There are no licensed sites within the borough, and the number of individual licensed dwellings increased to 4. All are satisfactory.



*E. H. Perkins and Son Ltd.,
Marlborough.*